

Corporation for National and Community Service

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AWARD NOTIFICATION: SENIOR CORPS RSVP EXPANSION GRANTS

Background

Throughout the country, Senior Corps engages the skills, talents, and experience of more than 245,000 Americans age 55 and over to meet a wide range of community challenges through a network of three programs — the Foster Grandparent Program, the Senior Companion Program and RSVP. Through Senior Corps, older adults make a real difference through the lives of individuals and as they help increase the capacity of nonprofit organizations, community agencies, faith-based and tribal organizations throughout the United States. The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) awards grants to these local organizations and public agencies to administer these programs.

RSVP strengthens public and nonprofit agencies by building the infrastructure needed to efficiently and effectively mobilize experienced and skilled volunteers with vital programs and services. One of the largest volunteer efforts in the country, RSVP engages more than 208,000 older adults, retired or not, who use their skills and life experience in volunteer service that helps solve challenges facing communities. RSVP volunteers serve in diverse volunteer roles that may include: intergenerational education; access to care including opioid abuse/prevention; transportation services that support aging in place; housing services and activities in evidence-based programs. Additionally, they help increase the capacity of local organizations by recruiting and managing other volunteers.

A primary goal for CNCS is to increase the impact and reach of national service in America's communities. In January 2017, Senior Corps opened the 2017 RSVP Expansion Competition with a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). This national competition was an opportunity for communities—with no current RSVP program—to apply for funds and establish new programs that address national priorities. The response was tremendous. Requests for funding outpaced the available funding amount by more than five times resulting in a highly competitive applicant pool. In accordance with the criteria and process established by the NOFO, 50 organizations were selected to be awarded grants. Together, these grants total a funding amount of \$5,370,177 for a total of 7,766 new RSVP volunteers.

Award Information

Recipient:	Stuttgart Chamber of Commerce. 507 South Main St. Stuttgart, Arkansas 72160 - 4358
Program Contact:	Norma Strabala, rsvp@suddenlink.net
Award Amount:	\$75,000 per year/3 years (pending annual appropriations)
Target Geography:	Monroe and Phillips Counties
Program Summary:	

Stuttgart Chamber of Commerce, a private, non-profit corporation devoted to working on issues that improve the quality of life for their community, will recruit 120 RSVP volunteers to serve in Monroe and Phillips Counties in the rural southeast region of Arkansas known as the "Arkansas Delta." RSVP volunteers will focus on issues that support the healthy futures of residents and disaster preparedness, building on existing relationships with United Way, American Red Cross, Tri Delta Food Commission and Economic Opportunity Commission. RSVP volunteers will: support issues related to food insecurity, including nutrition education, meal packing and food distribution; conduct financial counseling; provide in-home support to veterans, the elderly and the disabled, including transportation to medical and other health related appointments.